

MAR 13 2000

THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY  
#000029103090#  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
CARRIER ROUTE 39  
005-DTM 3-09  
50000

SINCE 1877

MARCH 9, 2000

VOL. 124

No. 5

## Reccord: Bold Mission Thrust goal met

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, was the featured speaker for the 18th annual Rankin Association missions banquet at Crossgates Church in Brandon on March 2.

"Nobody embodies our 'New Ways for a New Day' theme better than Bob Reccord," said Allen Stephens, Rankin Association director of missions, in introducing Reccord.

Reccord became the first head of NAMB when the new agency was launched in June 1997. NAMB was formed from the merger of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, and the Radio and Television Commission in Ft. Worth, as part of the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reccord took the opportunity at the Rankin Association banquet to announce that as of Dec. 31, 1999, NAMB had achieved the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries on the field by the year 2000.

"On Dec. 31, 1999, we had 5,025 missionaries on the field," Reccord said.

The Bold Mission Thrust goals to present the Gospel to everyone on earth by the turn of the century were adopted at the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention.

"More times than I can count I heard people say we could never make that goal," Reccord recalled.



TALKING MISSIONS — Sharing a moment together at Rankin Association's annual missions banquet are Linda Tate, associational WMU director; Bob Reccord, president of NAMB; and Allen Stephens, director of missions for Rankin County Association.

In addition, Reccord said in 1999 Southern Baptists set a record in new church starts with over 1,700. He also pointed out that 60% of the new starts were ethnic — Hispanic, Asian, and African-American.

"New doors are opening for Southern Baptists to evangelize the world, Reccord pointed out.

He told of a recent opportunity at the United Nations (UN) in New York City. Though NAMB has had a ministry at the UN for a number of years, a door opened to an expanded ministry.

On Dec. 15, 1999, in a New York hotel, Billy Graham spoke to the leaders of 88 countries represented at the UN.

"Without apology, Billy Graham shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

"The next day, his daughter, Anne Graham Lotz — some say she is the best preacher in the family — spoke at the United Nations' secretariat. Over 900 people filled the room to standing room only to hear Ann speak. We are still following up on the people who responded to the message," Reccord said.

Reccord's message was from Acts 8, concerning how God led Philip away from his comfort zone to meet the Ethiopian eunuch. He pointed out how the Ethiopian is like so much of the world today:

♦ He was ethnic. "The growth rate of white people in the 1990s was zero. The growth rate of Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans were all in double digits," he said.

♦ He had been to a big city. "At the start of the 20th century we were a rural nation. Today, the top 50 cities hold 50% of the population of the U.S. One out of every three people live in one of the top 10 cities.

"God is telling Southern Baptists, 'Come on. I am bringing people together in the cities, and I want you to tell them about Jesus.'"

♦ He had been to a big church and left empty. "He went to a church with no answers. There are perplexed seekers all around us, and many of them have been to church and found no answers," he said.

Philip was able to explain that the Scriptures were pointing toward Christ, Reccord pointed out.

"He never said a word about the programs at First Baptist Church of Jerusalem, but spoke rather about a person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"One thing I like about Philip is he was not seminary trained," Reccord said.

"Our main calling is not to build big churches, but to give Jesus Christ away, one person at a time," Reccord said.

Southern Baptists are currently in the Season of Prayer for North American missions, with a special emphasis on the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (AAEO) that supports those efforts. (Please see related editorial on page two of this issue.)

The AAEO web site can be accessed at [www.anniearmstrong.com](http://www.anniearmstrong.com).

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

BMC's Fisher to retire

4

Schulz commended

5

Letters to the editor

9

Sunday School lessons

11

Miss. CP tops Feb. '99

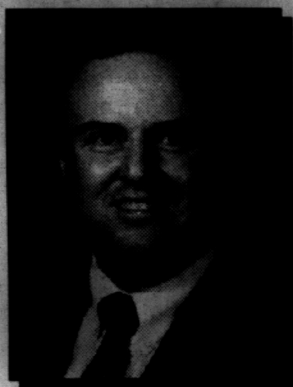
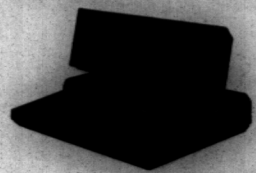
Mississippi's Communist Party (CP) reported a record high membership of 1,200 in February 1999, up from 1,100 in January. The party's executive committee reported that the party's membership had increased by more than 100 in the past five months.

CP sees Feb. increase

The Communist Party (CP) of the United States of America (CPUSA) reported a record high membership of 1,200 in February 1999, up from 1,100 in January. The party's executive committee reported that the party's membership had increased by more than 100 in the past five months.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Heather Cumberland

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record** Advisory Committee:  
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland  
Bettye Coward, Clinton  
Charles Dunagin, McComb  
Allan Nix, Laurel  
David Petty, Jackson  
Gary Richardson, West Point  
Heather Cumberland, secretary

**Postmaster:** Send changes of address  
to **The BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
missrecord@aol.com

VOLUME 124 NUMBER 5  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Missions closer to home

Say the word "missions" to Southern Baptists, and for most of us a vision springs to mind of some far-away place on the other side of the globe with strange-speaking people in stranger-still garb. We like to think of missions as a thrilling Indiana Jones jungle adventure, filled with breath-taking action and unforgettable experiences.

To be sure, there are Southern Baptist missionaries on the other side of the globe right now who are involved in situations almost as exotic as those fast-paced movies — and there are missionaries on the other side of the globe whose ministries are much more dangerous than any movie could portray.

They certainly deserve our daily prayers and our sacrificial financial support, but they aren't the only ones. There are our North American missionaries — we called them "home missionaries" in the days of the old Home Mission Board — and their Kingdom ministries are just as important and just as much in need of our prayers and support.

The two main ways Southern Baptists support North American missions are through our Cooperative Program gifts, a percentage of which goes to fund the ministries of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, and the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions.

The importance of "home" missions cannot be overemphasized. In the U.S. and Canada — focal areas of NAMB ministries — there are more than 220 million unbelievers. We like to describe ourselves as a Christian nation, but it would appear we've got plenty of work left to do in our own backyards.

AAEO provides major funding for NAMB's two major thrusts in the U.S. and Canada: evangelism and church planting.

NAMB missionaries minister to people's needs in 112 language groups in urban and rural settings, opening their arms to such diverse populations as seniors, the illiterate, non-English speakers, substance

abusers, prison inmates and their families, the disabled, migrants, and even vacationers, to name of few.

There are currently over 5,000 NAMB-sponsored missionaries serving in the U.S., Canada, and U.S. territories, backed up by more than 100,000 volunteers each year.

More than 3,000 NAMB-endorsed chaplains serve in the U.S. military, correctional facilities, hospitals, and corporate settings. In 1999, they made more than 1.5 million contacts and saw more than 23,000 professions of faith.

In addition, Southern Baptists are starting about 1,500 new churches each year in the North American missions area.

Even with those impressive numbers, however, we're falling behind population growth at an alarming rate. It's time we caught up with the Lord and his Kingdom work.

One of the best ways we can do that is through giving to AAEO. In 1999, gifts to AAEO enabled NAMB to:

- ♦ help fund Nehemiah Project professors at all six Southern Baptist seminaries to teach and mobilize new church planters. More than 150 church planter interns were also appointed to serve in summer, semester, and full-time capacities.

- ♦ implement the Church Planter Management System, a comprehensive computer management tool to help new church planters in their work. More than 6,500 copies have been distributed, and 2,500 church planters have received training in how to use the system.

- ♦ support more than 13,000 youth and adults who participated in World Changers projects, and more than 1,000 young peo-



FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

## By ALL Means!

**Week of Prayer**

**for North American Missions**

**National Goal: \$47,000,000**

**Challenge Goal: \$55,000,000**

[www.anniearmstrong.com](http://www.anniearmstrong.com)

ple who were appointed as summer/semester missionaries.

Do we believe the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when he asked us to go forth and witness to a lost world (Matt. 28:18-20)? We can begin by praying for, getting personally involved in, and financially supporting Southern Baptists' North American ministries.

We should start right away. If we don't have our own house in order, how can we convince a lost world to get their houses in order? Think about it.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Emmaus Walk is positive*

*By Mark Donald, member  
First Church, Louisville*

that had attended the Walk. Faulk said, "As a SBC pastor for 19 years, I would strongly encourage everyone to make the Walk to Emmaus a part of their spiritual growth."

I sponsored my own pastor, Chuck Pourciau, who is now at Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La. We have a large number of people in my church who had already been on the Walk to Emmaus prior to when Pourciau was called to our church. He agreed to attend the Walk to Emmaus because, "The people in my church that were asking me to go on the Walk were leaders in our church and gave so much of their time in service to First Church."

I think a testament to the Walk of Emmaus is the fact that at least four pastors work each Walk to Emmaus weekend. This is a weekend where clergy

and laity work side-by-side in presenting this short course in Christianity. I wonder, if the Walk to Emmaus is as bad as the press writer portrayed it, then why do the clergy continue to use their time off to work these walks?

These articles were picked up from a Baptist Press writer in a neighboring state and I don't doubt that there are some bad apples that have done some strange things after attending a Walk to Emmaus. In the ten years that I have been associated with the North Mississippi Walk of Emmaus community, I have not heard of anyone selling his possession or leaving his church because of the Walk he attended.

The North Mississippi Walk to Emmaus encourages everyone who attends a Walk to go back to their local church and find some place to serve. The North

Mississippi Walk to Emmaus Board has gone to great strides in addressing the so-called "secret or cult" things we do. There is a book titled, *What is the Walk to Emmaus?* by Stephen D. Bryant which is available to anyone. Anyone with on-line capability can go to The Emmaus Library at [www.pastornet.net.au/emmaus/act/whatis.html](http://www.pastornet.net.au/emmaus/act/whatis.html).

When I first read the article and subsequent articles lumping the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis in with Tres Dias, I was upset. The press writer had done an injustice to a powerful movement that God is using to strengthen the local Body of Christ and to those Mississippi Southern Baptist whose lives have been changed because of the Walk to Emmaus. Since I had to stay in a limited word count, I didn't even get to tell you about the powerful impact prayer has on each weekend. Maybe I can do that some other time. My hope and prayer is that this guest opinion has diverted your thoughts about the Walk to Emmaus to more positive thoughts.

*Donald is a dentist in Louisville.*



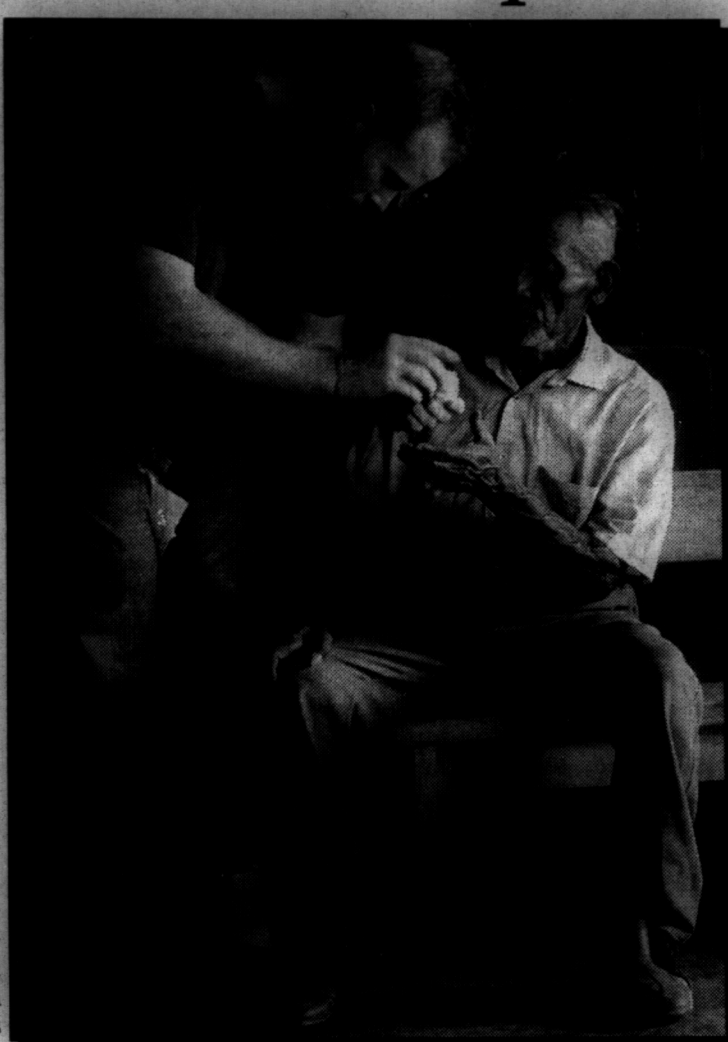
# Medical missions opens hearts worldwide

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "We were it," he says. "There was no one else." The war was just ending when Brad McLoren's medical team received clearance into the country.

Political tension ran high; devastated refugees had scattered; and the government forbade traditional missionary work. The only missionary family working with this particular people group was expelled shortly after his arrival, leaving his team alone to minister to more than four million Muslims scarred by war and disease.

Then God began to work a miracle.

Many had never visited a hospital or heard about a Savior, but as the team treated them, they listened. They listened when McLoren (whose real name is not used in this article to protect his outreach) came to their homes and taught mothers and children how to wash their hands and take



**SHARING JESUS' LOVE** — Volunteer Matt Davis (left) helps an elderly man in Honduras understand the dosage of his prescription, but the medical volunteers also helped hundreds of Hondurans understand the love of Jesus Christ. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

"These are doctors and nurses who are taking medical help to the poor!" they said. "They are doing a great work for us." Even the government listened.

McLoren's team is part of the newest wave of medical missionaries who are leaving the hospital environment and taking their tools on the road. The destinations vary — college classrooms, urban offices, mud huts — but the need and the reasons are the same. Everyone needs good medical care, preventive medicine, and health education. Everyone needs to know the "One by Whose stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Under the International Mission Board's "New Directions" program, which focuses on people groups rather than countries, more and more medical missionaries and volunteers are getting the green light to head for areas typically unreached by hospitals — or by tra-

The best way for preventive care to reach the people is not through the hospitals but by going to the people. The approach, called "community health," takes preventive medicine and education about clean water, proper hygiene and nutrition directly to the people. The biggest advantage: Because hospital care is concentrated in large cities, community health care goes where there is no medical care — and no evangelism.

Education is another prime opportunity for medical personnel. In countries closed to Christian missionaries, even those toting stethoscopes, the national government will almost always accept — even request — guest lecturers on health-care topics for their universities and medical schools.

## THE BAPTIST *Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 9, 2000

VOL. 124

No. 5

"[People] live without hope, and here we come with a message of hope. We're trying to send a message to doctors everywhere: You have the great potential for using medical missions," McLoren said.



**MINISTRY OF HEALING** — Missionary physician John Gibson makes his morning rounds at Bangkla Baptist Hospital in Thailand. Hospitals like Bangkla laid a solid foundation for Southern Baptist medical missions. Now medical missionaries and volunteers are moving into areas typically unreached by hospitals — or by traditional missionary methods. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

## Study strengthens money skills

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Michael Taylor believes to have strong marriages couples must have unity of purpose in financial goals and money management. Taylor, co-author of the newly released "Money in Marriage" resource, hopes to help engaged and newlywed couples identify sources and solutions for conflict in all aspects of their personal financial management. Taylor sees the resource as an opportunity for pastors to help reverse current divorce trends by equipping couples with tools they can use to prevent breakups.

Working with author and money management authority Larry Burkett, Taylor found that conflict over money is the number one cause of divorce in America. Burkett is founder and CEO of Christian Financial Concepts where Taylor, a former pastor and church planter, is a staff writer. They have co-authored several volumes related to money management issues. "The church today looks the same as the world in terms of divorce," Taylor observed. "The way we manage money represents the core values of our lives, so when husbands and wives come together, there can be a collision of core values. If we discover the conflicting values that cause them to bicker, then we can help them come together under the lordship of Christ."

Money management is a spiritual endeavor, Taylor said, and he believes couples who deal with the issue together can solve or avoid problems that destroy marriages. He views providing stewardship resources to couples as "placing a warning sign at the top of a cliff instead of an ambulance at the bottom."

The Money in Marriage kit contains two audio tapes; member workbooks for husband and wife; a CD-ROM including personality assessments; an interactive first budget and an interactive question-and-answer session; and a facilitator's guide to be used by a pastor, church staff member or Christian counselor. A member book with CD-ROM may be ordered separately. Money in Marriage is available from LifeWay Christian Resources bookstores or by calling toll-free (800) 458-2772.

recounts. "We baptized them in bathtubs, in lakes." When the government launched a "tenacious" investigation against the clinic, the people themselves defended McLoren's work.

ditional missionary methods.

Since J. Sexton James, the first Southern Baptist missionary doctor, sailed for China in 1846, generations of medical missionaries supported by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches have followed in his footsteps — from pharmacists to physical therapists to oral surgeons. Southern Baptists currently have personnel serving in about 20 Baptist hospitals around the world.

Global health care in recent years has been changing from curative medicine to preventive medicine. Since there's obviously no way to "cure" everyone in the world, medical experts are looking to preventive measures like vaccines to stave off potential illness.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Directors of Missions (DOM) Fellowship, which meets four times a year, has elected Calhoun Association DOM Wayne Gullet as president; Kenneth Rhodes, DOM of Pearl River Association as secretary-treasurer; and Marvin Cox, DOM of Union County Association as vice president.

### 20 years ago

Four Mississippi men — Rusty Griffin, Paul Harper, Jimmy Smith, and Doug Day — plan to spend a week at Barbados Baptist College teaching pastors and other church leaders how to use camping as a means of outreach. Mississippi RAs will pay the expenses of Caribbean leaders to attend.

### 50 years ago

Persuaded by the prophecies of a 16-year-old girl who preaches in her sleep, a number of people in and near the small town of Jyvaskyla, Sweden, have sold or given away their possessions, quit their jobs, and settled down for the end of the world.



# Blue Mountain's Fisher set to retire June 30

BLUE MOUNTAIN (Special) — E. Harold Fisher has announced that he will step down after 35 years at the helm of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Blue Mountain. Fisher, the school's sixth president, will retire on June 30.

"A new president should be selected to provide the necessary leadership as the college moves into the twenty-first century. There are programs to be initiated which should be developed by one who will have the satisfaction of seeing them successfully developed and implemented as has been my privilege as I have served the college," Fisher said in a prepared statement.

An overall increase of almost 41.5% in enrollment has been recorded during Fisher's tenure, and more than 47% of all BMC graduates received their degrees

during Fisher's time at the college.

Since Fisher assumed the presidency, BMC has added a medical technology program, a church-related vocations empha-

sis, classes on weekends and each night except Wednesday, and new courses in sociology, computer science, honors, readings, and practicums. A special program to permit teacher assistants to earn a degree in five years was added in 1986.

Scholarship assistance has increased 7,000%, and a scholarship program for church-related vocations was begun in 1994 in which annual scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to students majoring in church-related vocations. A total of 59 students currently receive those scholarships.

During Fisher's administration, four new buildings were constructed: Cockroft Dormitory (1968), Paschal Student Center (1970), maintenance shop (1989), and Broach Hall (1993).

Whitfield Dormitory and the Modena Lowery Berry Auditorium were renovated and restored (1998-99). Extensive renovations were made to the library, including the addition of the Anderson Room, and to the science and family and consumer science labs in the administration building.

Under Fisher's leadership, the school's budget increased 930%, income increased 970%, and the endowment rose 729% to \$6,876,480.

Fisher received B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Mississippi in

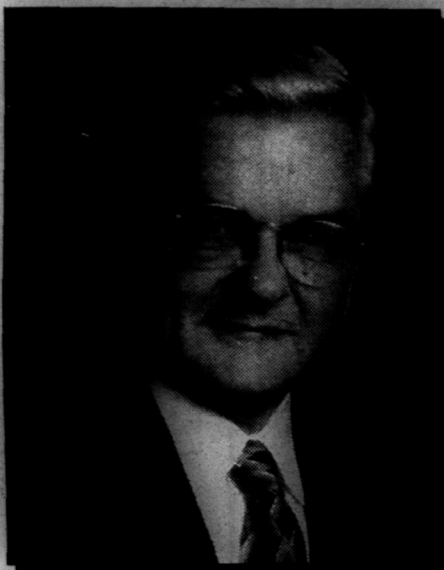
Oxford, and also did postgraduate work at the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City. He was awarded an honorary L.L.D. degree from Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Fisher has been married for 44 years to the former Mary Huggins of Oxford, a 1952 BMC graduate who retired in 1996 after 26 years of teaching in the college's business department. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

"During the past 35 years much progress has been made as we have worked together to implement a quality program of Christian higher education at BMC. The 35-year journey has not always been easy, but through it all God has provided the guidance and leadership necessary to accomplish what we all have done together," Fisher said.

BMC trustees have formed a search committee to consider Fisher's replacement. John McRae of Atlanta, an executive search counselor specializing in higher education, has been retained to assist the search committee.

For more information, contact McRae at John McRae and Associates Inc., 1930 N. Druid Hills Road NE, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30319-4120. Telephone: (404) 325-3252.



Fisher

## MC to cut budget in wake of projection mistakes

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton will reduce next year's operating budget by approximately nine percent and maintain salaries at present levels to account for multi-million-dollar mistakes in expenditure and revenue projections, according to the Baptist-affiliated school's president.

Howell W. Todd said in a prepared statement that a total review of the procedures for formulating budget projections is underway to ensure that the situation does not repeat itself in the future.

"No money is missing and there is no evidence of any wrong doing on the part of anyone. It is simply a mistake by the budget office.

"If we had realized the mistake earlier, much of this belt-tightening could have been avoided. We could have adjusted the spending early on. We consider this a one-year shift, and we expect to be back on track after this one-year adjustment," Todd said.

MC received a total of \$2,408,953.75 last year in Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) gifts given by Mississippi Baptist churches and budgeted by messengers to

the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC).

In addition, the school received \$415,909.02 from the challenge portion of last year's Mississippi CP budget. The challenge portion is composed of CP gifts over and above the amount needed to meet the annual budget.

MC is scheduled to receive \$2,583,948 in Mississippi CP gifts for the year 2000. The challenge portion of the 2000 CP budget cannot be calculated until after the end of the fiscal year in December.

MC trustees are jointly appointed by MBC messengers and the school's trustees.

this latest development. I urge all affected individuals not to rush to judgmental verbalizations and/or accusations.

"Every effort should be made toward continued financial aid to students, but with equal emphasis on compensatory remuneration for faculty members who have been extraordinarily faithful through 'thick and thin' years," McGregor said.

Frank Harmon, chairman of the MBCB executive committee and pastor of First Church, Newton, said, "While I regret that MC finds itself in a financial belt-tightening because of inaccurate projections, I have confidence that Dr. Todd and the board of trustees will work together to find a solution that will neither harm students or faculty, and one that will preserve the integrity of the institution and Mississippi Baptists."

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which is charged with disbursing CP funds to the state's Baptist agencies and institutions, said, "It is impossible to make a fair evaluation without full information. While an investigative audit is taking place, the initial indications are that projected growth and income exceeds reality.

While we all rejoice over the progress that has been made at the college, Mississippi Baptists are concerned about the 'how, who, why, and how much' related to this matter. For the present we will pray, listen, and help where we can in hopes that neither faculty, nor students, nor the future of the college might be impeded," Futral said.

## MC set for belt-tightening next year

Editor's note: Following is a verbatim statement provided to The Baptist Record by Mississippi College.

Mississippi College (MC) is set for some fiscal belt-tightening for the coming year says MC President Howell Todd. Todd said he and the Board of Trustees learned in late January that the information provided him on expenditure and revenue projections were not accurate, and this will necessitate a reduction in next year's operating budget. Todd said a total review of the procedures for formulating budget projections is underway to ensure that the situation does not repeat itself in the future.

"We are solid as an institution, but we must adjust spending plans to keep them in line with our revenues. No money is missing and there is no evidence of any wrong doing on the part of anyone. It was simply a mistake by the budget office," said Todd. MC will reduce its operating budgets by approximately 9%, and salaries will remain the same for next year. Todd said there would not be any additional tuition increase beyond the amount already planned for next

year. "MC is a very affordable institution, and we will make the adjustments in our budget in order to keep it that way."

MC has been very successful with its fund-raising campaign, and Todd said projects would move forward as the pledges come in. "The construction budget is totally separate from the operating budget. Our donors earmarked money for building and campus improvements, and it must be used in that fashion. In addition, these monies are considered one-time dollars and won't necessarily be coming in each year. Operating budgets have to be built on a continuing revenue stream, so we cannot mix the two budgets."

Todd said he considered the budget adjustment a major frustration and expressed his unhappiness at finding it, but said it was certainly not a crisis. "If we had realized the mistake earlier, much of this belt-tightening could have been avoided. We could have adjusted the spending early on. We consider it a one year shift, and we expect to be back on track after this one year adjustment."



Todd





# Preacher/cartoonist lauds Schulz influence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "Just about every preacher I know" has quoted from Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" cartoons, reflected popular Baptist cartoonist Joe McKeever after Schulz, 77, died Feb. 12 on the eve of his last cartoon in Sunday papers across the globe.

McKeever, pastor of First Church, Kenner, La., and former staff member at First Church, Jackson, has been cartooning since childhood (and preaching since his senior year in college). His cartoons have appeared in such journals as Leadership, Preaching, and Pulpit Helps, in state Baptist papers and, with two other cartoonists, in an eight-volume Baker Book House series, "Instant Cartoons for Church Newsletters."

McKeever said preachers have been especially aided by Linus, the philosophical brother of Lucy in Schulz's cartoons. He recounted citing Linus in a recent sermon, from a cartoon in which Linus turned to the New Testament Book of Acts to address one of Lucy's pressing concerns.

Lucy thanked Linus for easing her mind on the matter, to which Linus replied, "Good theology has a way of doing that."

McKeever and Schulz shared a common heritage — the only training they received in cartooning was via correspondence courses from the Art Instruction Co. of Minneapolis.

McKeever, the son of a coal miner in north Alabama, wrote to the company when he was 14 after seeing an ad in a magazine. He received a reply stating that he was too young — something about "people your age don't generally follow through" — and that he should write again when he turned 16.

So, in 1956, McKeever did just that. His sister, Patricia, of Nauvoo, Ala., who had just graduated from high school and taken a job as a telephone operator, offered to pay for the courses — if he promised to stick with it.

Patricia spent about \$350 on the lessons over a couple of years, and McKeever said he occasionally signs over a royalty check to her to say an ongoing word of thanks.

McKeever also can give testimony to Schulz's graciousness. When McKeever

joined the National Cartoonists Society around 1980, he decided to write to about 10 of the group's most prominent members, Schulz among them, and ask for one of their cartoon strip original drawings.

One of those who replied was Schulz. Schulz, who grew up in St. Paul, Minn., was raised in a Lutheran home, joined the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) as an adult, and taught a Sunday School class, recounted Crosswalk.com, a Christian Internet site Feb. 16. Perhaps one of his greatest trials as a Christian came in a divorce and remarriage.

Schulz took a stand for his faith when his Charlie Brown Christmas special was in production years ago, facing off with network officials to make sure that Linus recited the entire Christmas message, the Christian Internet site iBelieve.com recounted Feb. 14.

Schulz died in his sleep of a heart attack in his California home following a battle with colon cancer and small strokes that forced him to end "Peanuts" after nearly 50 years of cartooning encompassing more than 18,000 strips.

Schulz's fellow cartoonist and friend Johnny Hart, who often infuses Christian themes into his "B.C." and "The Wizard of Id" strips, reflecting on the extraordinary circumstance of Schulz dying just hours before his final cartoon was published, told iBelieve.com, "It's as if, when you're through and you've made your peace with Jesus and your family and everything is cool, and you've said your good-byes ... Charlie always said, 'When I die, the strip will die, too.'" Hart, 69, entered the media with "B.C." at age 27, seven years after Schulz's first "Peanuts" strip, published when Schulz also was 27.

McKeever, writing last year in the journal Preaching on the subject of "What Preachers Can Learn From Cartoonists," observed that preachers and cartoonists "seem to have a mutual attraction" and share a lot in common.

"They live by deadlines, they need to be wordsmiths, everything is grist for their mill, their craft (i.e., sermons and cartoons) works on different levels and rarely does

"NOW — HOW MANY OF YOU LIKED PREACHER NUMBER ONE THE BEST?"



one hit everyone in the target audience. When they do their work really well, they may expect someone to be offended. One more thing: both groups do a lot of their work sitting at a table or desk staring at a blank sheet of paper."

McKeever also observed, "Successful preachers and cartoonists are originals, different from the others in the field each in his own way. Some are truly artists; others not so talented but each has learned how to do his best, to speak with the voice and use the abilities God gave him."

## TIPS ABOUT "TEARING DOWN"

I guess, given enough time, virtually everything is subject to being torn down. Not long ago I watched as a row of old, empty buildings were being torn down in the Jackson area. The buildings had long since been vacated. They now were empty and, for the most part, had been gutted. What caught my attention the most was the fact that some huge cranes had been brought in to hold the walls up until they could be properly torn down. Timing and orderliness were important in order to keep from tearing down some things nearby that they did not want to tear down. I watched the process go on for several weeks and I kept thinking what a lesson there was for the church if we would just pay attention.

Consider first that *sometimes some things need to be torn down*. The buildings I observed had stood there for years with no apparent purpose and with no usage. In addition to that, you could see where the mortar had crumbled and the wood had rotted. Though they probably could have been fixed, it would have been terribly expensive, and for what purpose? There are



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

times when the church needs to take a close, studied look at what they are doing — what is of real value and what, on the other hand, is just being maintained for historical purposes.

Secondly, consider this — that *care must be taken when you tear something down not to tear up what you don't want destroyed!* It is not unusual for a church to consider stopping or changing something and in the process destroy the fellowship. I actually knew of a church that got all crossed up with each other because there was a proposal that they take down the old barbed-wire fence from around the cemetery. The man making the presentation pointed out that it was unsightly, that there were no cows around any more trying to get into the cemetery, and that best he could tell,

nobody in the cemetery was trying to get out. Be that as it may, there were a number of people who did not want anything done because it "had always been that way." As a result, the fence did not go, but the sweet spirit and fellowship did — right out the window.

That leads me to the third consideration that should be given as we tear things down, and that is to *be sensitive to the feelings of those who built it up*.

The march of time, the advancement of technology, and simply the changes that occur in life require some alterations. A Model-T Ford is certainly not in the class of a modern 4-Wheel Drive SUV, but when the top ten most outstanding cars of all time were selected, the Model-T was rated #1! We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ford.

So when you get ready to replace something in the church with a new, whiz-bang, great idea, you might ought to quietly pray asking God to make your idea as good as the one that is being removed.

One final consideration is *while tearing something down, remember that it is important to keep things stable*. That's what the cranes were doing in holding the walls up while things were being taken down. In the Christian life that stability is provided by and maintained by keeping a Christ-like spirit every step of the way. Jeremiah says that the Lord called him to a ministry of tearing things down: "I've set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms to root out and pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to plant and to build." (Jeremiah 1:10)

No, it was not a "slash and burn/wreck and ruin" kind of ministry. It was a "remove the things that are no longer needed, nor profitable, so you can re-establish the things that grow and produce," kind of ministry.

It was a word from God, and it is certainly good advice for us to follow.



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.





**Oakland Church, Walnut,** held dedication services for its remodeled parsonage on Feb. 6. Services were held during the 11 a.m. worship hour followed by a walk through the parsonage. Lyndle Davis is interim pastor.



**Neshoba Church, Union, dedication service**

Neshoba Church, Union, dedicated its new 4,500 square foot educational building on Jan. 23. The cost of the building is paid and the church is debt free. Pictured (from left) are Johnny Collins, pastor; Mike Wells; Ray Boswell; Lavern Green; Allen Muse; Tom Johnson, chairman of building committee; Terrell Winstead; Annette Welch; Vicki Keene; Anne Vance; and Sue Lewis, minister of music.

**GAs from North McComb Church in McComb,** held their first GA World Venture Ceremony on Feb. 20 in conjunction with the Pike County Missions on Celebration event. Seated (from left) are Haley Stinson, Savannah Smith, and Reed West; (second row) Kaya Buie, Shannon Buie, Molly Slonaker, Alisha Grotz; (third row) Theresa Summers (older GA leader), Evangline Youngblood, Summer Aultman, Brooke Flory, Katelan Varnell, and Della Hamilton (younger GA leader).

**GAs of North McComb Church, McComb**



**Tomnolen Church, Webster Association,** held groundbreaking ceremonies recently for a new church building. The new building will be moved several hundred feet back from the present site. The church hopes to sell the old building and land to help with financing. Pictured (from left) are Jimmie Morgan, Susan McCain, Marion McCain, and Dale Orr, building committee; J. B. Rowe, pastor; and Billy Joe Stafford, chairman of deacons. Not pictured: Matt Pogue, building committee member.

**First Church, Quitman,** held a Sportsman's Seminar on Feb. 19. Outdoor Evangelism Association of Amite, La. presented the program. There were 156 people in attendance with 12 professions of faith recorded and 16 rededications.

**Singles Ministry of First Church, Richland,** will host a 13-week Divorce Recovery Seminar for adults and children on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., beginning March 16. For more information, call (601) 939-1715 or e-mail at [FBCR@iolms.com](mailto:FBCR@iolms.com).

**Knox Church, Tylertown,** will dedicate its recently remodeled sanctuary on March 18 at 7 p.m. The church will host the gospel music group, The Chalks from Mendenhall. Jim Ennis is pastor.



**Concord Church, Booneville,** culminated its yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration on Sept. 28 with the unveiling and dedication of its historic marker designed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Pictured on the left are Doug Scally, great grandson of Concord's second pastor, Prier Scally, and his daughter Kathleen; on the right are pastor Robert and Elizabeth Walker.

## Michael's Watch

*But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." - Jude 1:9*

**Michael's Watch** is a support group whose sole purpose and mission is to offer emotional, mental, and spiritual support for those whose lives have been affected by family members or loved ones involved in the homosexual lifestyle.

**Michael's Watch Group** meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling **First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi** at (662) 773-6246.

## CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING

**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**

CLINTON, MS

1-800-423-9826

1-601-924-1982

ALL SIZES

SALES AND RENTALS

## Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

• Steeple • Krinkigian • Baptistry • Windows • Lighted Wall • Crosses • Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

800-527-1459  
PO Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

## PASSION PLAY OBERAMMERGAU - 2000

(We have the Best Accommodations and Tours)

Alpine Highlights - Germany, Austria, Switzerland  
May 16-26, June 8-18, June 27-July 7, July 4-14, July 11-21

Imperial Capitals - Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest,  
Prague, Cruise to Dresden, Berlin

June 13-27

.....  
All Bryan Tours stay in the village of Oberammergau in a first class hotel  
.....

(Only a few spaces left!)

Call, write, or fax for brochures and information:

## Bryan Tours

P.O. Box 5221, Jackson, MS 39296

(601) 981-1345 or (800) 647-5296 or Fax (601) 981-9335

E-mail: [bryantours@aol.com](mailto:bryantours@aol.com)



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 9, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



## 2000 DATES FOR GA SUMMER CAMP CAMP GARAYWA

JUNE 5-9  
JUNE 12-16  
JUNE 19-23  
JUNE 26-30  
JULY 3-7  
JULY 10-14  
JULY 17-21  
JULY 24-28  
(COMPLETED GRADES 3-6)

**Cost: \$110** (includes registration fee, snacks, crafts, lodging, meals, and limited insurance)

**SCHEDULE:** Registered campers will check in between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. each Monday. Campers are to remain until NOON on Friday.

**NEW FOR 2000!! ACTEENS CAMP JULY 17 - 21**

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

### GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

☐ March 24-25 (Grades 1-6)

### GA FATHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

☐ April 7-8

(Check your choice.)

All overnights begin at 5 p.m. Friday and conclude at 2 p.m. Saturday.  
**Dead line to register is two weeks prior to each event.**

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daughter's Name/Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$27.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total enclosed)

No reservations will be made by phone.

Groups wishing to bunk together must register together.

If space is still available after the registration deadline, reservations will be received at the cost of \$32.50 per person. Whenever possible, please send one check for entire group.

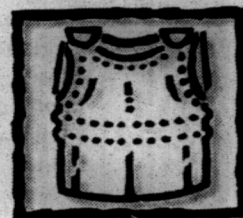
Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)  
Send to: WMU - Mother/Daughter Overnight (or Father/Daughter Overnight)  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

## Annual Missions Celebration

### "Whatever It Takes"

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

March 17 - 18, 2000



### Schedule

#### Friday

1:15 p.m. Session 1 *Whatever It Takes... To Be Like You, Lord*  
5:00 p.m. Dinner for parents of missionaries and members of the state Executive Board  
6:15 p.m. Session 2 *Whatever It Takes... To Be Strong In the Lord*

#### Saturday

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Members Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Session 3 *Whatever It Takes... To Take the Stand*

#### Parade of Mission Organizations:

All Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens members are invited to participate

#### Noon

Lunch for program participants and missionaries (retired and stateside assigned)

## The Monarch Colony proudly presents

*"Butterflies are free and so are we!"*

*If the Son sets us free, we are free indeed John 8:36*



*You are cordially invited to flutter over to Camp Garaywa to attend the*

*Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference*

*April 10-11, 2000*

For more information, please contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



# Pastor & Wife Retreat



August 11-12, 2000 • Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Purpose:** To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives. Please note that this retreat replaces the II Growing Churches Conference (church leader training).

## Schedule:

**Friday**  
 2:00-5:00 p.m. Registration, recreation and fellowship  
 5:30 p.m. Seafood Banquet Dinner  
 6:30-9:00 p.m. Seminar and Worship Time  
 9:00 p.m. Ice Cream and Fellowship  
**Saturday**  
 7:00 a.m. Morning Watch on Pier  
 7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
 8:30-9:30 a.m. I Session for Pastors and Wives  
 9:30-10:00 a.m. Break  
 10:00-11:00 a.m. II Session for Pastors and Wives  
 11:15-noon Worship  
 noon Lunch  
 1:00-2:00 p.m. Little Extra (for those who can stay)

## Childcare:

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

## Reservation and Registration:

- Participation is limited to the first one hundred (100) couples that register for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore. A pastor may attend without his wife, but will be housed with other men in the remaining accommodations.
- Registration will be accepted only after March 1. You may use the 2000 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information brochure's registration form or register using the form below.

## Cost:

Adults, \$43.50 Children ages 12 & up, \$21  
 Children ages 2-11, \$13.35.

Full scholarships for pastors are available, but each will be responsible for the cost of his wife and/or children. Please indicate choice on the registration form below.

**Sponsored by:** Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., Matt Buckles, director

## REGISTRATION

### Pastor & Wife Retreat • August 11-12, 2000

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the type of accommodations needed: ☐ Couple Only ☐ Pastor Only ☐ Couple with Children  
 Total number in family \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scholarship for pastors only: ☐ yes ☐ no

Please mail or fax to: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.  
 Phone: 228-452-7261 Fax: 228-452-7263

Please include a deposit of \$40 per person and \$80 per family.  
 Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

## 2000 State Bible Drills

- 4/3 Senatobia, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 Gulfport, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- 4/4 Greenwood, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 Brookhaven, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- 4/6 Tupelo, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 (Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union and Tishomingo Assoc.)  
 Tupelo, Calvary BC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 (Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union and Tishomingo Assoc.)
- 4/7 Starkville, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 (Churches outside Golden Triangle and Winston Assoc.)  
 Starkville, Calvary BC 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 (Churches inside Golden Triangle and Winston Assoc.)
- 4/8 Clinton, FBC 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
 Clinton, FBC 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
 (Churches inside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.)  
 Brandon, FBC 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
 (Churches outside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.)
- 4/10 Meridian, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 Poplar Spgs Dr. BC  
 Petal, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
 Petal-Harvey BC
- 4/11 Laurel, FBC 2:30-4:30 p.m.

## 2000 Selection Tournaments

- 4/15 Alta Woods BC  
 Youth Speakers 10:00 a.m.  
 Youth Jr. High 1:00 p.m.  
 Scholarship 2:00 p.m.

The Children's and Youth Church Paks have been mailed to the churches and the associations. If you have not received yours, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800.

## Gulfshore Youth Weeks

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian May 29 - June 23, 2000

Gulfshore Youth Weeks are a 4-1/2 day camp experience designed to give youth, who have completed grades 7 through 12, opportunities for authentic worship, Bible Study and life application. The worship experiences will point youth to God while creating genuine Christian community. Youth are encouraged to start and build relationships with God and others through family group and recreation times. They are also equipped with vital tools needed to make a difference for Christ in their churches, schools and communities.

## Schedule

CAMP DATE	CAMP PASTOR	CAMP MUSICIANS
May 29 - June 2	Gary Permenter, Columbus	Praise Band
June 2 - 6	Greg Warnock, FBC, Brookhaven	Praise Band
June 6 - 10	Jon Daniel, Monticello BC	Praise Band
June 10 - 14	Michael Kelly, FBC, Booneville	Praise Band
June 15 - 19	Don Gann, Wynndale BC, Terry	Praise Band
June 19 - 23	Ken Hester, FBC, Pontotoc	Praise Band

Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Registration for Mississippi churches begins March 1, 2000. Out-of-state churches can register beginning April 15, 2000. Program fees, meals and accommodations total just \$138 per camper.

For more information:  
 Gulfshore Youth Weeks program information, faculty information and applications -  
 Mark Lott 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3295.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly reservations -  
 Frank Simmons 228-452-7261





## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR A-NEW CENTURY CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS

Sunday School for a New Century will involve releasing new Bible study curriculum choices (available from the Fall 2000 Quarter) designed to assist churches as they seek to see more lives transformed through the gospel. Through these series of workshops we will interpret and help prepare your church for these exciting changes. This conference is for pastors, staff, Sunday School directors, and key age group leadership.

Dates	Sponsoring Association/s	Location	Time
3/14	Newton	Conehatta Baptist Church, Conehatta	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/16	Prentiss & Alcorn	Gaston Baptist Church, Booneville	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/16	Leake	West Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/18	Lee & Itawamba	West Jackson St. Baptist Church, Tupelo	9:30-11:30 a.m.
3/20	Lauderdale	Westwood Baptist Church, Meridian	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/21	Lincoln & Franklin	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/23	Golden Triangle	West End Baptist Church, West Point	7:00-8:30 p.m.
3/23	Northwest & Panola	FBC, Senatobia	6:30-8:30 p.m.
3/27	Pike	N. McComb, McComb	6:30-8:00 p.m.
3/27	Washington	Washington Associational Office, Greenville	7:00-9:00 p.m.
3/28	Union County	TBA	7:00-9:00 p.m.
4/14-15	State S S Dept.	Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon	5:00 p.m. - 14th noon - 15th
5/02	Jackson	FBC, Gautier	6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information, call the State Sunday School Department.  
1-800-748-1651 or (601)968-3800

## Spring Family Life Conferences

**Monday, March 27**

Spring Hill Baptist Church, Oakland  
Single Adults - Glenn Shows, MBCB  
Parenting - Ron Mumbower, FBC, Jackson  
(Sponsored by North Central Association and MBCB;  
for more info call 662-226-5071)

**Thursday, April 20**

Rocky Creek Baptist Church, Lucedale  
Single Adults - Glenn Shows, MBCB  
Senior Adults - Ken Hopkins, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Parenting - Don Hicks, MBCB  
Marriage - Carl Dickerson, Hattiesburg  
(Sponsored by Greene Association and MBCB;  
for more info call 601-947-4981)

## Marriage Conferences

### • Marriage Enrichment

**April 28-29**

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison  
Ron Mumbower, Family Counselor  
FBC, Jackson  
Call 601-853-1090 for more information.

### • Toward a Growing Marriage

**September 22-23**

Gary Chapman  
author of *Five Love Languages*  
First Baptist Church, Gulfport  
Call 228-863-6501 for more information.

## 2000 LEGAL ISSUES AREA MEETINGS

"keeping your *church*  
**OUT** of court"

### SITES

**APRIL 17, 2000**

Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville  
116 Vick Street

**APRIL 18, 2000**

Calvary Baptist Church, Meridian  
3905 8th Street

### SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00	Welcome, Prayer, Introductions
9:10	Session Begins
12:00	Lunch at Church
1:00 p.m.	Session Continues
3:45	Adjourn

For further information contact: Matt Buckles,  
or Robin Nichols at 1-800-748-1651  
(in Jackson, 968-3800).

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under county, state and national laws and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** church business administrators, church staff, personnel committee members, finance committee members, church trustees, legal professionals dealing with issues concerning liabilities of churches and non-profit organizations.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$10 per conferee (includes lunch). The 154-page notebook "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" will be available for \$25. You may e-mail your registration and pay at the door.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** William R. Korb, Jr., Sheila L. Korb, Michael V. Bourland, all attorneys with Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and general counsel to Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc., and trust and estate counsel to Baylor University.



### REGISTRATION FORM

Complete this form, enclose your check, and return to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; FAX 1-601-714-7426  
or e-mail: [mbuckles@mbcb.org](mailto:mbuckles@mbcb.org) or [churchad@bellsouth.net](mailto:churchad@bellsouth.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check the conference you will be attending:

- ☐ Batesville - April 17, Panola Association, 662-563-7439  
☐ Meridian - April 18, Lauderdale Association, 601-483-1419



Pray this day for...

March 10 - 23, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

## Reasons We Are Ineffective - "The answer is the presence and power of God which is expressed through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ."

### Beyond the Veil by Alice Smith

Home Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis). James Moore is a church planter, pastoring the Smyrna Baptist Church in Smyrna. Pray that as they continue to reach out into the community they will strongly impact the community for the Lord.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC has produced a pledge card to call us back to our historic Baptist commitment to total abstinence from alcoholic beverages and any illegal substance. Pray that many will make this commitment.

Children ages five to 13 have a 32% probability of accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. The probability of accepting Christ drops to 4% for those 14 to 18. Those older than 18 have a 6% probability. These stats make us realize more than ever our desperate need to pray.

Please intercede on behalf of the many Turkish Cypriots who live in London. There are less than 20 known followers of Jesus among this group. Pray especially for "T" and a "Y", a Christian Turkish Cypriot couple, that they will be able to carry the gospel to their people.

ISC workers John and Joy McCall serve in Bonne Fin, Haiti, where John is a pharmacist at Hospital Lumiere. A patient, formerly involved in magic, saw the "Jesus" film, accepted Christ and led four others to Christ. Pray for his physical & spiritual protection.

Missionaries Jeff and Renee Hale write: "It is a dry season in Allada, Benin. We have not had water service since Dec. 30." When they can find water, the women and children must walk to the other side of town, buy water at double the normal price, and carry it back home. Pray that water will come in quickly and in abundance.

Pray for thousands of Chinese children abandoned every year because of the government's one-child policy. Give thanks for humanitarian groups providing temporary homes for these orphaned children and for adoptive parents who accept these children into their homes.

MKs (missionary kids) sometimes must be separated from their families in order to get an education. Pray for wisdom for the new couple of the MK Home in Nairobi, Kenya, seeking to make it a "home away from home" for the high school students who will live there.

Please pray for Christian Japanese business people as they meet monthly in small groups across the metropolis of Tokyo/Yokohama area as they seek to be "light" and "salt" among the lost in the professional world of Japan.

Chang Soo Choi is a Messenger of the Word at Omaha Korean Baptist Church in Bellevue, Neb. Chang Soo writes sermons in English and Korean on the Internet. Pray that God will bless this ministry so that many will be blessed in reading the sermons and responding to them. Pray for Chang Soo who possibly has glaucoma.

For (1) Church Organists & Church Pianists Workshop, FBC, Clinton (Church Music), (2) Missionary Donna Kirby in Hong Kong asks us to pray for a family that does not know Christ, a husband, wife and three children. Donna is also nurturing a new believer who needs to grow spiritually.

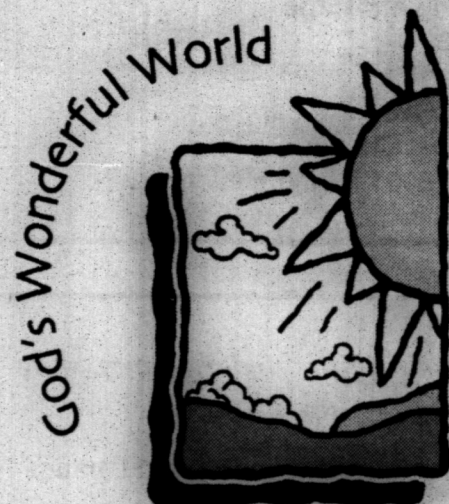
Recently a believer in Tunisia prayed: "Lord, give us 2,000 families for the year 2000." Please join in praying that this will become a reality and that God's Spirit will pour out over the people of this country as never before.

For (1) State Youth Choir Festival, FBC, Madison (Church Music), (2) WMU Annual Meeting, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (WMU), (3) African American Church Leadership Institute, Solid Rock BC, Greenville (Strategic Initiatives).

For (1) Church Weekday Education Clinic, FBC, Jackson (Discipleship & Family Ministry), (2) A team ministering in a Last Frontier nation has become very discouraged because some key members of the team have had to leave the country. Ask God to raise up a leader who could provide a clear sense of direction for the team.

## YOUNG MUSICIANS' CAMPS 2000

For those who have completed grades 4-6 by June



Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, June 23-27  
Cost: \$132.50  
Register through Gulfshore: (228) 452-7261

Guest Director:  
Wayne Causey  
Minister of Music  
Forest Hills Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tenn.



Blue Mountain College, July 24-28  
Cost: \$100

Register through Church Music Dept., MBCB.



Guest Director:  
Nan Grantham  
Preparatory Choir Director  
Houston Children's Chorus  
Houston, Texas

God is pouring out blessings at these camps. Music touches the soul like no other medium, and children are very receptive to God through music. Be a part of a Young Musicians' camp in 2000. Registration opens March 1. Come, expecting a blessing. For more information, call the Church Music Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651.

Learn about

God's Wonderful World  
featuring

Worship services

Music and spiritual emphasis  
classes

Choir rehearsals

Crafts

Faculty features

Swimming

Concert of camp music on  
last evening

## Church Facilities Workshop

April 13, 2000  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Country Woods Baptist Church  
6737 Siwell Road  
Jackson, Mississippi  
371-7955

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel.

Please complete the registration form below and mail.

E-mail or fax to:

Keith Gordon, Church Building Services  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Fax number: 601-714-7426, E-mail: kgordon@mbcb.org

### Church Facilities Workshop

April 13, 2000

Registration Form

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# HOUSE TOPS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Oakland Church, Walnut**, held ordination services on Jan. 16 to license Randy Buse to the ministry. Pictured with Buse and wife April is Kelton Melton, Billy Thomas Joyner, S. A. Tapp, Bill Winter, deacons; and Lyndle Davis, interim pastor.

**Chris Lansdell** was ordained to the ministry by Belden Church, Lee Association, on Feb. 6. He serves as minister of youth at Belden Church. Pictured (from left) are Don Baggett, pastor; Chris Lansdell and his wife Lisa; and Teddy Golding, chairman of deacons.



Baggett, The Lansdells, and Golding

**Kelly Wheat** was ordained to the ministry by Adaton Church, Starkville, on Jan. 16. Pictured with Wheat (center) are Frank Brewer, Frank Tillery, Jim Harfst, Rickey Tarvis, Mike Keasler, Blake Hudson, and Russ Huddleton, deacons.



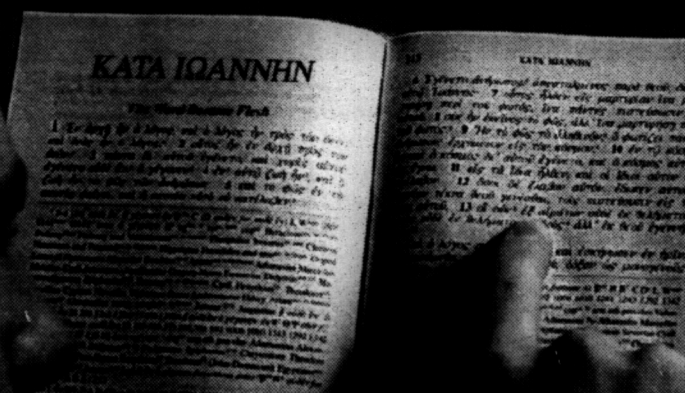
Ordination service at Adaton Church, Starkville

**First Church, Ovett**, recently ordained Herman "Butch" Pague III, as deacon. Pictured with him is his family (from left) are Asta, Miranda, wife Jeanne, and his mother Josephine. His mother has since died with a rare type of cancer. "This was one of her lifetime dreams, to see her son be ordained as a deacon. She was never able to attend church again," said Tommy D. Mangum, pastor.



Ordination service at First Church, Ovett

# We're serious about the Word.



The Boyce College offers the B.A., B.S. and A.A. degrees to God-called men and women with these distinctives:

- **Confessional.** Committed to historic Baptist convictions
- **Focused.** Provides classical biblical and theological studies
- **Relevant.** Addresses worldview issues of the 21st century
- **Practical.** Dedicated to local church ministry, evangelism, and biblical preaching and teaching



**James P. Boyce College of the Bible**  
a school of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280  
1 800 728-7044 • Visit us on the web: [www.sbts.edu](http://www.sbts.edu)

**Hurley Church, Hurley**, recently honored Johnny Coggin for 15 years of dedicated service as associate pastor and minister of music. Pictured, Breaux Tageant (right), pastor, presenting Coggin (center) and his wife Sarah with a plaque expressing appreciation and recognition of his service.



The Coggins and Tageant

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.



Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!  
[www.tri-statevanbus.com](http://www.tri-statevanbus.com)

### Are you paying too much for your Medical Insurance or Medicare Supplement Coverage? If yes, Call Today!

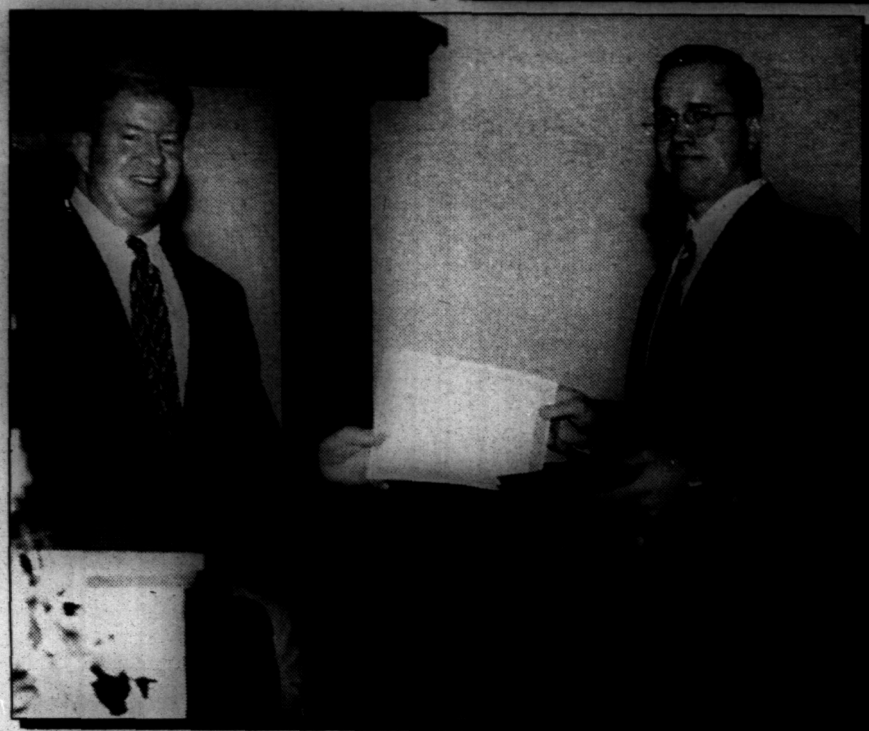
- ☐ **Major Medical & Surgical Plan**  
Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.
- ☐ **Medicare Supplement**  
Ages 65 and over. Low Rates!
- ☐ **Long-term Nursing Care**  
Also available Home Health Care!
- ☐ **Final Expense Burial Plan**  
Affordable Senior Life Protection  
Agents, GA's and MGA's needed

Call today for free information:  
**E.F. Hutton**  
**Insurance Marketing**  
PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047  
**1-800-880-2305**

- ☐ **Medicare Supplement under age 65 and on disability**



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Hickory Church, Newton Association, licensed Hal Etheridge (right) to the ministry on Jan. 23, Baptist Men's Day. Etheridge brought the message and was presented with his license by Rodney Anderson (left), pastor. Etheridge is available for supply preaching and can be reached at (601) 646-2765.

Marvin Plunkett was honored with a plaque for more than 40 years of service to the

church music program at Williams Church, Kosciusko.



Hubbard and Plunkett

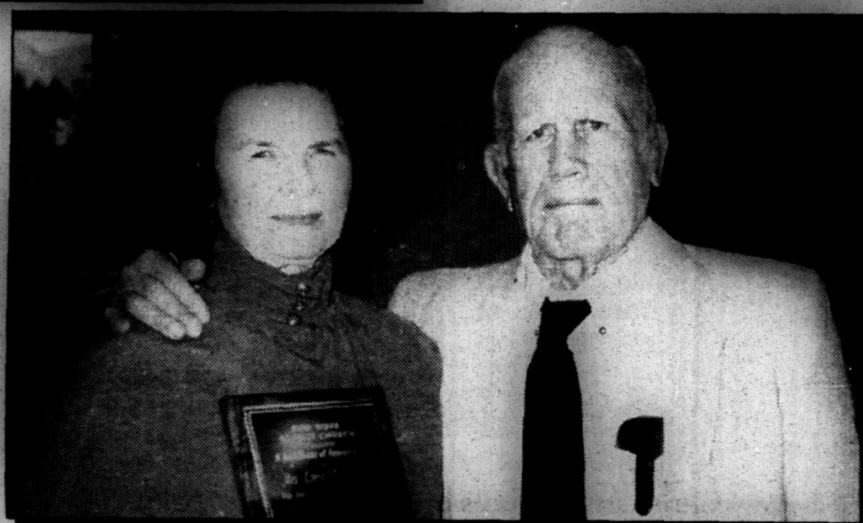
Pictured with Plunkett (right) is Doug Hubbard, minister of music and students.

East Booneville Church, Prentiss Association, recently honored

Errett Barnes, Ozell Shields, and Blanton Hester with the position of Deacon Emeritus. Pictured are Barnes, Jim Holcomb, pastor, and Shields.



Barnes, Holcomb, and Shields



The Koonces

Louise Koonce was honored with a plaque and lunch for her 14 years of service as secretary, clerk, and treasurer at New Hope Church, Coffeeville. She is pictured with her husband Jimmy Koonce.

James and Irene Pollard were honored for 40 years of service as treasurer of Fellowship Church, Choctaw Association. Pictured with the Pollards is William Reaves, pastor.



The Pollards and Reaves

## REVIVAL DATES

**New Zion, Walnut Grove:** March 8-10; 7 p.m.; Randel Creel, evangelist; Greg Renfrow, pastor.

**First, Richland:** March 19-22; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., noon-day services, 11:45 a.m.-12:50 p.m. (lunch); Junior Hill, evangelist; Price Harris, music.

**First, Tunica:** March 26-29; evening services at 7 p.m.; noon services, Mon.-Wed., with lunch provided; Jay Richardson, Greenville, evangelist; Danny Brock, Brandon, music; Danny Smith, pastor.

**Concord (Yazoo):** March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish

meal, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carl Savell, Jackson, evangelist; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, Clinton, music; James F. Yates, pastor.

**Chester, Ackerman:** March 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Leslie Clark, Pittstown, Oklahoma, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Mathiston, music.

### MS PORTIONS AVAILABLE

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**Ordination services** were held at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, on Feb. 20. Ordained to the ministry were (from left) Phil Turner, church administrator, Easthaven Church; Mitchell Smith, music minister at Carmel Church, Monticello; Thad Owens Jr., associate pastor, Easthaven; and Mike Foster, associate pastor and minister of youth at First Church, Amite, La. Bendon Ginn is pastor.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, \$6 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583. **WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS** Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

**MIN OF MUSIC** new to Jackson seeks work. FT/PT/supply/revivals. Eight years experience. Excellent references. Call 601-206-1163.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED** Prefer someone beginning seminary this summer or fall. Hillcrest Baptist Church, Franklinton, La. Phone 504-839-4703.

**MONROE, LA - North Monroe Baptist Church** - seeking minister to adults. Send resumes to Judy Matkins, 186 Woodland Rd., Monroe, La 71203; Fax 318-323-4116; e-mail: matkins@bayou.com; phone 318-322-3284.

**NORTH MONROE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking minister of music. Send resume to Joe Lane, 109 Susan Drive, West Monroe, LA 71291. Fax 318-322-2718; home 318-396-8467; or 318-325-0601.

**GROWING CHURCH SEEKS** full-time minister of music and youth. Send resume to: First Baptist Church of Longville, P.O. Box 88, Longville, LA 70652, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**A SHELTER FOR ABUSED CHILDREN** needs a live-in couple for a 21 day shift to parent up to 12 children. Support staff and benefits. Send resume to: Sunshine Shelter, 409 N. Union Street, Natchez, MS 39121.

**WANTED: MISSIONARY-MINDED COUPLE** to serve the Lord in a home caring for children needing a place to live. This evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Not a behavior modification facility. Competitive salary and other compensations which include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children 601-328-5216.

**EXCITING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** in Northwest Louisiana needful of full-time student pastor with an intense passion for souls. Salary range with benefits \$42 - 50,000+. Send resume to: Confidential, E. Hearron, P.O. Box 32000, Shreveport, LA 71130-2000.

## Jackson Assoc. sets missions opportunities

Backyard Bible Club format used at apartment complexes and in Boys and Girls Club settings. Additional opportunities include serving at seamen's centers and local soup kitchen. Separated dormitory style air-conditioned lodging, showers, stove, refrigerator, washing machine, and dryer are available at a cost of \$3 per person per night. Four weeks remain available: June 5-9, June 12-16, June 26-30, and July 24-28. Contact Tom Miller, Jackson Association, P.O. Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39568, or call (228) 769-7101.



## CHURCHES AUTONOMOUS

Editor:

As a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missionary/pastor for nearly 27 years, I read with interest the recent letters regarding a "church property revert clause" which is becoming a practice in some areas. Southern Baptists have always believed the Bible teaches the autonomy of the local congregation of believers. This supports God's principal of voluntary cooperation that he has used to bless us in his Kingdom work. Local churches mentioned in the New Testament cooperated together voluntarily and were not subservient in any way to any other local church. One church could recommend to another but had no power to coerce.

Thus, a congregation that constitutes into an autonomous church ought to be granted the full rights of any other church; otherwise, we physically create an unbiblical picture of what a church really is.

I know that there are certain

risks. Believe me, I know! The historic SBC church that I pastor must now meet in homes as a result of the abrogation of such supposed binding agreements by our former sponsoring church, while our new building remains locked and empty. Nevertheless, a church is still a church with or without a building!

Following God's Word is a solid foundation, regardless of any other consideration. Relying on the government's legal system to insure justice and equity is no assurance of either.

Jerry Moser, pastor  
Bayou DuLarge Church  
Theriot, La.

## SUPPORT TLW

Editor:

Once again on Valentine's Day, young people across America expressed their commitment to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. True Love Waits (TLW) signs were displayed in church members' yards in many locations throughout the nation to remind the world that there are

students who hold to God's intent for sexual purity.

TLW has been a leader in the sexual abstinence movement and to date has involved 86 other cooperating ministries. The results have been significant. Dramatic changes have been documented in national trends in teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual activity. Young people are looking to God's Word for solutions and finding ways to transform their culture.

The first TLW commitment cards were displayed in the summer of 1994 at the Orlando Convention Center. On June 13, 2000, TLW yard signs will be displayed at the convention center. The goal is to display a yard sign from every church that has participated in TLW. The signs will include signatures of students in each church who have made a commitment to sexual purity.

Order your yard sign from LifeWay Christian Resources at (800) 458-2772, and obtain signatures of students participating in TLW. Mail your sign to arrive by June 1 to David Flatt, minister of youth, Parkway Baptist Church, 9000 Lake Underhill Road, Orlando, FL 32825.

Let's show our young people we believe in the stand they are taking for sexual abstinence until marriage.

James T. Draper, Jr., pres.  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Nashville

## THANKS FOR RESPONSE

Editor:

We at Shiloh Church, Vaiden, want to express our deep appreciation for the prompt response we received from the association office and

the Baptist Building recently.

When our church was totally destroyed by fire on February 14, I called our director of missions, George Smith, to see if a mobile chapel might be available for our temporary use.

He immediately contacted Don Wilson, director of the strategic initiatives department, who processed our request. On February 15, Wilson called and confirmed that a mobile chapel will be on site for us by Feb. 24. Additional calls from Jim Didlake and others at the Baptist Building guided us to additional resources available.

When something like this happens, we are reminded of how blessed we are to have the Cooperative Program.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists! Shiloh Church will continue to be a contributing partner. We ask for your prayers as we seek God's leadership in beginning again.

Doug Warren, pastor  
Columbus

## EMMAUS NO SECRET

Editor:

I am writing this in response to the article in The Baptist Record the week of January 13 concerning the Cursillo, Emmaus, and Tres Dias movements.

These spiritual renewal weekends are just what they say they are — spiritual renewal. Nothing more, nothing less. There are no secrets being kept from anyone. Anyone is invited to attend. Because of the spiritualness of the weekend it's an experience that can't be put into words — only felt.

It has been a life changing experience for me. I challenge anyone with any doubts about these weekends to go and see what happens!

As for cautioning Baptists to attend, all I can say is this Baptist went and felt the presence of God and know the changes in my life. I challenge all Baptists to get off your blessed assurances and help to change this world for the Lord as you have been told to do and stop criticizing those who are trying to do something about it.

Brenda Pollard  
Pearl



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## Interested In Health Professions? Exploring Career Opportunities?

**BAPTIST**  
College of Health Sciences

**Offering baccalaureate degrees in  
Nursing, Respiratory Care, and  
Radiological Sciences**

**Day, evening and weekend  
schedules available**

## Program Information Session

**Thursday, March 30**

6:30 p.m. Registration  
7:00 p.m. Program

**Saturday, April 8**

9:30 a.m. Registration  
10:00 a.m. Program

1003 Monroe Ave., Memphis, TN 38104

Please RSVP: (901) 227-4330 or 1-800-796-7171  
Visit our website at [www.bchs.edu](http://www.bchs.edu)

**Custom Church Interiors, Inc.**  
**PEWS**  
Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations  
1-800-654-1294  
Jackson, Mississippi 39204

## LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

### Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.

328 Southgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

Call Today

(800) 370-6180



Available in 20' to 37' models  
(12 to 47 passengers, New & Used)

- LifeWay Discount
- 15 passenger vans
- We buy used buses

[www.carpenterbus.com](http://www.carpenterbus.com)

**Since 1953**

"We specialize in church buses"

Call for Free BROCHURE **BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
**FACTORY DIRECT**  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



## Widows called to AB prayer initiative

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention is launching a nationwide "Widows' Might" prayer initiative to focus on the work of Southern Baptist organizations. The prayer effort will begin on April 1.

Drawing upon its annuitant rolls, widows are being asked to set aside time to pray daily for specific needs related to Southern Baptists' world missions ministries, theological education ministries, Christian ethics and religious liberty ministries, and facilitating ministries including the Annuity Board and the Executive Committee. Also targeted are church enrichment ministries including LifeWay Christian Resources and Woman's Missionary Union. Missionaries, denominational workers, ministers, and retired ministers are also a focus of the prayer effort.

A note from a widow in Kansas attached to a volunteer form said, "I may not be able to see, but I still have a line open to the heavenly Father."

Another volunteer from Texas wrote, "There is little I can do to serve our Lord except to pray for those who are at work in the fields. The Widows' Might seems to go along with a part of my present calling as I interpret God's leadership."

From Arkansas, a widow replied, "It will be my joy to give something back in prayer — for all you and God have given me."

Included in the materials being sent to all volunteers are a prayer resource kit and a replica of the widow's mite. In addition, a call to prayer sheet targeting specific prayer needs for the quarter will be sent to each volunteer.

For more information, contact AB at (800) 262-0511.

# Annuity Board plan drawing mixed reviews

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) approved changes to the Annuity Board (AB) mission statement and expansion of its ministry assignments to include personal investing for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees.

The proposed changes must be approved by messengers at the SBC annual meeting in June in Orlando, Fla. Executive Committee approval, and other mostly routine business actions, came during its Feb. 21-22 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Changes to the Annuity Board's mission statement, which also include institutional investment management services for Southern Baptist organizations, clarifies the board's responsibilities "to assist the churches and other denominational entities by making available retirement plan services, life and health coverage, risk management programs, and personal and institutional investment programs."

O.S. Hawkins, Annuity Board president and chief executive officer, said, "We appreciate the opportunity to expand our services for those we serve. Southern Baptists have always responded to the needs of those who serve our Lord."

"From the establishment of the Relief and Annuity Board [in 1918] to the addition of life and medical products, the Annuity Board has met the challenge to provide products and services that enhance the financial security of Baptist

servants," Hawkins said.

The board's current ministry assignments include retirement plans, life and health coverage, risk management programs, and relief programs. The two new ministry assignments would provide current participants with more opportunities to achieve an adequate retirement income, board officials said, and allow the board to work in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foundation and Southern Baptist state foundations to meet investment needs of Southern Baptist organizations.

The vote by the Executive Committee followed months of negotiations between staffs and legal counsel of the Executive Committee, the Annuity Board, and other entities.

Two Executive Committee members raised concerns during the discussion period. Both Steven D. Boyd, pastor of Simpsonville (Ky.) Church, and W. Ted Kersh, pastor of Village Church, Oklahoma City, said they were concerned that in the negotiations prior to the Executive Committee action some state convention officials' concerns about the matter were not given proper consideration. However, neither Boyd nor Kersh offered any amendments to the proposed recommendation.

The recommendation passed overwhelmingly although several negative votes were heard in the voice vote requested by Claude Thomas, Executive Committee chairman and pastor of First

Church, Euless, Texas.

Personal investing opportunities for participants refers to the ability of a Southern Baptist pastor, staff member, or denominational worker (or the spouse) to invest over and above the amounts that can go into a traditional retirement plan, board officials explained. The investment funds for personal investing will use the same investment guidelines adopted by the Annuity Board trustees.

The other new ministry assignment offers the Annuity Board's institutional investment management services to the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations (or state Baptist conventions where no foundation exists).

"The Annuity Board would like the opportunity to work in cooperation with Baptist foundations," said Roddy Cummins, executive officer for investments. "We believe this cooperation could enhance the ministries of Baptist foundations as they utilize our investment services and see us as a viable alternative to secular investment providers."

The Annuity Board would not offer estate planning services or assume any roles currently held by foundations, officials said.

"The Annuity Board is not proposing to overlap any of the ministries of the Baptist foundations and will only offer its services after reaching a cooperative agreement with each foundation," Cummins said.

## Christian singer shares struggle with pornography

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — It happened when he was in fourth grade. Clay Crosse was at a friend's house hanging out after school. Crosse said he remembered the events of that afternoon like it was yesterday. "My friend's dad had these magazines and we looked at them. It was amazing to me. It was shocking. I was just a kid, and I knew that I wasn't supposed to be looking at this stuff, but I did," Crosse said.

That afternoon, visions of pornography were burned into his eyes, and more than 20 years later, the popular Christian musician discovered his ministry and his relationships were becoming clouded by a sin that he kept hidden from the world. Now, Crosse said it's time to share his struggle with pornography to the body of Christ.

"It's been heavy on my heart," Crosse said in an interview with Baptist Press. "I'm not the kind of guy who can be a public figure and put on a happy face when something is so pressing on my heart. So I just want to be honest."

Dealing with pornography is not an easy topic to address with believers, especially when it involves one's personal struggle, Crosse said. And while he wasn't addicted to porn, Crosse said it is a problem that many men deal with — and one that can be overcome "with God's strength and support in our lives."

To understand how God released Crosse from his secret sin, he said it was important to understand his story from the beginning.

Crosse grew up in Memphis, Tenn., in a Christian home. He accepted Christ at the age of 13 in a Southern Baptist church and was active in his youth group through high school and college.

Outside their home, Crosse experienced his first brush with pornography.

"It got to the point in 1998 when I knew I had a problem. I had to be broken. It was a slap in the face to realize that in this area of my life, I was a joke."

That moment came on an airline flight in 1998. Crosse was returning from an engagement in Seattle and the long flight home to Nashville, Tenn., gave him time to reflect on his life and the secret sin he held in his heart.

"(On) that airplane, God made it so clear to me. I was way up in the sky, looking down on my life. It was like I had stepped outside of myself and was observing my own life," he said.

Today, Crosse and his wife say their marriage is stronger and healthier than it has ever been. They left Nashville and moved to Memphis where they live with their two daughters.

As Crosse prepares to venture out on a new musical tour, he said the message he will bring is one of hope: "I've experienced something that other people have been through and are going through, but praise, God, I've come out of it."



## LifeAnswers

Ron M. Power, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My wife's spending (all our cash, plus overdrafts at the bank and credit cards charged to the max) is ruining our marriage. How do I handle the resentment I feel?*

Resentment is a cancer that will destroy you, in that nothing is done and the problem continues. As you become angrier and more withdrawn, she will fill the void with more spending. Have you thought of taking your name off joint accounts and letting her deal with the consequences of her decisions? Consult a budget specialist or your banker; a tactic stronger than simple discussion may be necessary for her to see she has a problem. Look for ways to encourage her

when she does the right thing. Establish common goals, because if there are no goals there is no purpose. Pray about this for her, and with her. Let the Holy Spirit deal with her as you become more focused on doing the right thing rather than being her conscience. The Holy Spirit can do a much better job than we can!

*My son loves sports, but he is exposed to horrible language from his coaches. Part of me wants to pull him off the team, but I don't want to teach him to be a quitter. What should I do?*

Using such language is inappropriate. Talk with your

son about this, and talk with his coaches as well. Seize this opportunity to teach your son to be a good "filter" of what is going on around him — a skill that will come in very handy in his life. You can model how he can be "in the world" and still be able to deal with that which is not complementary of his Christian lifestyle, values, and morals. Removing him from the team will not solve the problem, especially if he enjoys the sport. Be careful that you do not create resentment. Choose a direction that will help everyone see your Christianity in action. Let the head coach know of your concerns and make him a part of the process as well.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Heart of harmony

1 Corinthians 2:1-3:3

By Neel Grantham

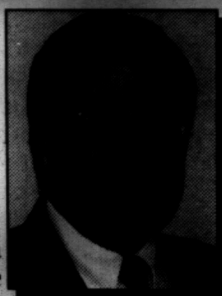
You have heard the expression "the heart of the matter." Today, think of this in terms of what is at the heart of all we do as the church. The heart of the matter should be to carry out the Spirit-revealed redemptive work and purpose of God. This is the heart of harmony as well. As we work together to maintain our focus, we will see a unity and harmony develop. Unfortunately, many churches have lost sight of God's redemptive work. We must return to that purpose.

Revealed message (2:1-2, 4-5).

Revealed to the church is a message of love and hope. Paul declared the message

was simply, "Jesus Christ and him crucified." He didn't try to use fancy words or eloquent speech to persuade. Instead, he depended on God's power to reveal the message. As we preach Christ from the pulpit or share Christ in the home, neighborhood, workplace, or marketplace, we too must rely totally on the "demonstration" of the Spirit's power.

So, do we now relax in our sermon preparation or in learning how better to share Jesus?



Grantham

No. We must learn to pray in the Spirit's power, study in the Spirit's power, and preach and share in the Spirit's power.

**Revealed wisdom (2:6-12).** There are two kinds of wisdom to which Paul refers. First, there is man's wisdom (2:5). It is the wisdom of this age and of this world. It is the wisdom of popular opinion and practice. Too many believers rely on this wisdom.

Second, there is God's wisdom. It is a secret to the world because they cannot understand it. The preaching of the cross (1:18) and the things of the Spirit (2:14) are foolishness to the world. That is why we must be like Paul and not use gimmicks or trickery to share Christ. Let us rely on the wisdom and

power of the Holy Spirit.

**Revealing spirit (2:13, 15-16).** These verses should be somewhat of a relief to many believers. When we preach, teach, or share Jesus, we do not have to rely on our own wisdom and abilities, nor should we. The Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth (John 16:13). He will teach us all things and remind us of all Jesus said (John 14:26). He does this as we pray, listening to his voice. He teaches us as we study the Bible diligently and faithfully. Having the Spirit of the resurrected Christ dwelling in us, we have the mind of Christ. This should stir us to spend more time with God each and every day. Jesus said we should abide in him and he in us, and that apart from him we can do nothing. (John 15:5).

Frank Pollard once described

the body of a chicken with his head cut off. The body still has activity, but it is activity which leads to death. We are the body of Christ, but if we lose sight of the fact that Jesus is the head, we will be a body full of activity which leads to death. We must let Jesus be the head of our churches. We should see the world through his eyes. When we can do that there will be no time for divisions in the church. Pride will no longer be an issue. We will see others as more important than ourselves.

The heart of harmony is having the heart of Christ. We need to recommit ourselves to his lordship. His heart was that of a servant. He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." After all is said and done, isn't that really the heart of the matter?

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

## LIFE AND WORK

### The world's destiny and the Lord's victory

Revelation 12:1-5, 7-12, 17

By Michael Jones

For some people, the idea that there is a real being who is the personification of evil — a real devil — is beyond belief. For those of us who know Christ as Lord and accept the testimony of scripture, there is no doubt as to the reality of Satan. These verses in Rev. 12 present an incredible story of a cosmic conflict, a drama of redemption. It begins with the recognition of the cast of this drama, with a focus on the antagonist — Satan.

**Satan is Christ's enemy (vv. 1-5).** A woman expecting a child and a great red dragon

with a terrifying appearance standing by ready to devour

the child at birth, is a symbolic word picture of the redemption story. It is obvious that the child is Christ, God in the flesh. He has come to offer himself as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Satan wants to destroy God's redemption before it ever gets started.

Matthew's Gospel tells how Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, had to slip out of town in the middle of the night to escape the fury of Herod, whose soldiers fell on the unsuspecting Bethlehem in the darkness and slaughtered



Jones

untold numbers of baby boys in an unsuccessful attempt to kill the Christ child. From the beginning, Satan and his minions have been the enemy of Christ.

**Satan is defeated (vv. 7-12).** In an unusual twist, the end of the conflict is told before the details of the battle. In most dramas, the defeat of evil and the victory of good is held to the last dramatic chapter. However, the vehicle of apocalyptic literature allows the story to be told in symbolic, rather than literal fashion. So we learn of Satan's defeat before we learn of the warfare with him. This is the Bible's way of reminding us that we are fighting a war that has already been won.

This is meant to be an encouragement to believers. Many scholars believe this literature was first distributed

among the early church during a time of intense persecution. To the Roman captors, it was symbolic nonsense. But to the embattled believers, it was the wind of hope that filled their sails and gave them the courage to continue forward in the face of the rough seas of persecution.

If you know hard times are only for a season, and that in the end you are going to come out on top, it helps in facing the difficulties of the moment. Like the most loved Bill Gaither song says, "I can face uncertain days, because he lives."

**Satan can be resisted (vv. 7-9).** Just because we know the end of the story does not mean we do not have fight many individual battles. One of the most encouraging verses in scripture for spiritual warfare is verse 11 of chapter 12. Here the believer is told how to win each and every battle we must fight in our victorious war against

the devil. Three things give us victory; the blood of the lamb of God, the word of our testimony, and the depth of our commitment.

**Satan is furious at believers (v. 17).** With the outcome of this cosmic drama already declared, and the formula for individual victory spelled out, all that remains is to work out the in between details. The dragon (Satan) is described as being furious at woman and her offspring. He makes war against those who "keep the commandment of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus."

We live in a time between the revelation of the savior and the final defeat of Satan. In this in between time, we are at war. If you do not feel the opposition of the evil one, maybe it is because it is not clear whose side you are on.

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Preparing for victory

Joshua 3:5; 4:20-24; 5:8-10, 13-15

By Keith Smyser

After running for a number of years, I had a strong urge as I approached forty years old to run my first marathon (26.2 miles). The distance would be the longest I had ever attempted. I began to train in February to run the race that would occur in November of the same year. Training my body by long runs every other Saturday, enabled me to complete the marathon on race day. It took about nine months of preparation.

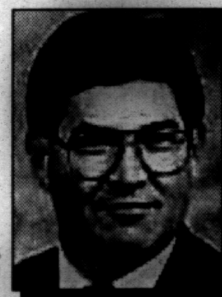
This week we study the preparation of the Israelites before they possessed the Promised Land.

**Consecrating ourselves (3:5).** Someone has said "meet-

ing God demands spiritual preparation."

The people of Israel were to consecrate themselves. The word consecrate means to make holy. To be consecrated was crucial in order for the Israelites to experience God's mighty power. This truth is echoed in 2 Timothy 2:21 that we are to be vessels fit for the master's use.

Our passage calls attention to the fact that when the people of Israel willingly consecrated themselves, the Lord did wonders or amazing things. God continually did mighty acts that reminded the people of his power. The challenge before us today is to daily sanctify or make ourselves holy. The daily



Smyser

confessing of our sins, keeping our hearts and thoughts pure, and living in an attitude of holiness enables us to be ready at anytime for God's call of service.

**Commemorating God's power (4:20-24).** Can you recall a time when God did a miraculous work in your life?

"When God works in mighty ways, it is for two reasons: (1) to provide for the needs of his people and, (2) to testify of his greatness to all people of all generations." (Joshua: Courage for the Future)

Joshua 4:20 refers to the twelve stones taken out of the Jordan River and mentioned in 4:5, 8. The crossing of the Jordan River was the second time God had parted waters for his people. The twelve stones were a constant reminder of God's power. The stones location at Gilgal was significant for it served as Israel's base camp dur-

ing the conquest (9:6; 10:15, 43; 14:6). Remembering the Lord's work in the past can strengthen us with courage to follow him more completely today.

**Confirming our identity (5:8-10).** "Timing is everything" it is said. Do you think the Israelites wondered about God's timing? They had just entered the promise land and Joshua told the Israelites it was time to circumcise the men of his army. During the wilderness wanderings, the unbelieving Israelites had ceased practicing circumcision. In a symbolic way, this "believing generation" rolled away the reproach of Egypt by the act of circumcision. To further identify them with God Joshua had the people celebrate Passover. The Passover commemorated events related to Israel's release from bondage in Egypt. It was important for Israel to celebrate the Passover for the first time in the land that God had promised them! Today believers celebrate the Lord's Supper to further identify with

Christ and to remember his redeeming work in their lives. God had redeemed Israel and promised them the land in which they now lived.

**Affirming God's presence (5:13-15).** It is only natural to want God's presence with us! Shortly before the battle of Jericho, Joshua had an encounter with a man identified as "Captain of the host of the Lord." The man did not answer Joshua's question of friend or foe but did say in essence, "I have not come to take sides but to take control." This passage is similar to Exodus 3 when God assured Moses of his presence. Joshua was nearing the time to take Jericho and was reminded that God would take care of things. Today, we need the same assurance in our lives. When we attempt to serve God, his promised presence and power enables us to follow him!

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.



# 'Small' ministry doesn't deter missionary

LOWELL, Mass. — The numbers were small that particular night at the Abundant Life Fellowship, meeting on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Lowell, but for guest Bible study leader John



The Ramirezes

Ramirez the payoff for such experiences comes in working with students like Jennifer Wangia — a Kenya native seeking to grow spiritually as well as intellectually in the overwhelmingly secular environment of the college campus.

"The reason why I keep coming back is this gives us a great place to grow spiritually on a campus that is not Christian at all," she said after the study. "... It's pretty much the only place where you can come and feel comfortable talking as Christians, sharing and things like that."

That is the need that energizes Ramirez, who serves as director of collegiate ministries

for the Baptist Convention of New England and a North American Mission Board missionary. He is featured with his wife, Anna, during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 5-12.

With the limited resources of what constitutes a minority religious group in the Northeast, he hopes to make an impact on 275 college campuses — including some of the country's most prestigious institutions of higher education.

It is in this environment that Ramirez is helping craft a different sort of paradigm for campus ministry. It is one in which

meetings are fewer, numbers are smaller and backgrounds are more diverse — but relationships are critical to making a lasting impact on leaders of tomorrow.

"In that short time that we have them, we try to mature them as Christians," he said. "If they're seekers, we try to introduce them to Christ. If they are Christians already, we grow them, send them out into the marketplace, and give them a good church base as much as we can."

Like many of the Southern Baptist leaders in New England, the Ramirez' roots are in the South. They both grew up in Oklahoma, where they were involved in student ministry through Ramirez's work at several campuses — ultimately at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater. But through involvement in mission projects, they increasingly felt the call to serve in a new-work area.

"With each passing trip it just seemed like I was leaving more and more of my heart in these areas, and I remember I was very disturbed about something I saw," he said. "I always believed that it was just the young maverick pastors and visionaries who went to minister in newer work areas, but I soon realized that there were many who simply went there to retire or escape."

Ramirez came to his current position on a 10-month sabbatical, what he thought would be a short-term assignment. Both he and Anna fell in love with New England and its people, and the position was made permanent. His students at OSU knew better than he did what God had in store.

"When they did their farewell party at the end of the semester, it had a tremendous air of finality to it," he said. "They said, 'Your heart's not here anymore. It seems to be somewhere else.'"

Shortly after they began their assignment, the Ramirezes knew the students were right. While others speak of a period of adjustment when changing cultures so abruptly, they immediately fell in love with

the region and its people. Within a few months his position was made permanent.

"When I arrived in New England I thought, 'What a wonderful, wonderful place,'" he said. "The sense of community here is just amazing to me. Once you get past the facade of the fast pace of Boston and New England ... there is a real sincerity to these people."

Anna, too, quickly fit in, as a volunteer teaching conversational English at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then being able to minister to internationals through employment at an immigration law firm. This year she was chosen as coordinator of volunteers for Hearts for Boston, the name local Southern Baptists have chosen for the city's Strategic Focus Cities effort. The initiative — sponsored nationally by the North American Mission Board — will bring volunteers and other resources to the city culminating in 2001 for evangelism and ministry.

"It's really exciting to see how God is taking past experiences and putting them into operation here," she said.

In John Ramirez's collegiate work, one of his first tasks was to strengthen the campus ministries in Worcester, just a few miles from his home and the convention's offices in Northborough.

He developed a team approach that he hopes to implement throughout the convention. Rather than some schools having campus ministry programs and others having nothing, Ramirez networks both collegiate ministers and the students throughout a particular city for once-a-week meetings. Out of that base programs eventually can be started on campuses where no collegiate minister is assigned.

"That's really the only way we're going to reach metropolitan areas with multiple schools," he said.



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1999

NX OE OX PGOERT OT  
ELR YGAYLREX, KRLAFB, O  
XRTB WU WRXXRTDRG  
KRCAGR ELU CNHR,  
PLOHL XLNFF YGRYNGR  
ELU PNU KRCAGR ELRR.

WNGM ATR: EPA

Clue: T = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two: Seven.



Gibbs

## Make a spiritual difference, speakers urge men

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — More than 2,800 men wearing everything from tattoos to ties attended a guys-only conference at First Church, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 18-19, where they were told how they live now will impact future generations.

Sports and spiritual leaders including Joe Gibbs, former head coach of the Washington Redskins, and Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God" discipleship materials, encouraged men to live a life for God during this premier men's event, "Stand Firm: Men Leaving a Legacy."

Designed to give men a shared vision of Christian leadership, the conference was jointly sponsored by First Church of Orlando, the Florida Baptist Convention Men's Department, and LifeWay Christian Resources of

the Southern Baptist Convention. It was one of two regional events of its kind being held this year. The next will be April 14-15 at First Church, Woodstock, Ga.

In a general worship session, Gibbs, now a NASCAR team owner, founder of a group home for troubled youth and a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, compared life to the game of football.

"God made us with competitive spirits, and we always want to win the games we play. The life we get to live is a game, and you and I are the players. Do we want to lose? No."

Gibbs said in football and life, "We've got to have a head coach. When I was a coach, I really cared about my players, and God really cares about us. I loved my players, but I wouldn't have sacrificed either of my sons for them. God was willing to do that. That's love beyond what all of us can comprehend."

Blackaby, director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta, said all fathers must work toward establishing spiritual markers

they can relay to their children. "Let them know how you've become the person you are; they will never know unless you tell them."

Blackaby outlined several ways men can provide a Christian influence to their families.

"Establish good relationships with your father. Your relationship with your father will help you in your relationship with your children. You can't be the father you should be if you have anger toward your own father."

Blackaby also told the men to treat their wives with respect and dignity.

"How you treat your wife is one of the most significant and serious legacies you can leave a family. I love my wife more today than when I first married her," said Blackaby.

Husbands should openly display affection for their wives,

treat them with respect, pray for them, respond to them, and help them grow, Blackaby said.

"Live with integrity" as you try to teach your children to do the same, he said.

He said children should never catch their fathers in small lies or hear them say they cheated on their income tax.

"Your lifestyle must be honest and righteous."

Fathers are "most vulnerable when you watch television and videos,"

Blackaby said.

"You have to decide if the legacy you leave is worth the sacrifice of not having that junk at home. What starts as one degree off with you can become a long way off when it comes to your grandkids," Blackaby said.

He advised men to work "one day at a time and every moment" as they attempt to leave a legacy of righteousness with their families.



Blackaby